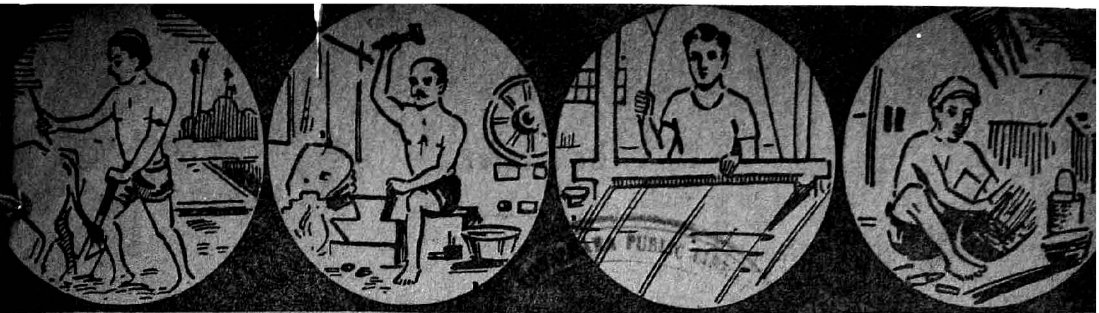

ADULT EDUCATION REVIEW

Hon. Editor. Sri. G. Harisarvottama Rau. M.A.
Asst. Editor. Sri. S. Airavatham.

VOL. V] JANUARY, 1954 [No. 3

Encouragement of Popular Literature

The Government of India have appointed a committee to encourage the Production of Literature. It will approve certain books and will purchase at least 1,000 Copies of each approved book for the Community Project ; and out of the approved books, the Committee will give Prizes to authors on published books. The Committee will also help in the publication in all Indian Languages of Books which receive a Prize under this Scheme.

SIAEA
EACH ONE TEACH ONE

PUBLISHED BY T. J. R. GOPAL
E SOUTH INDIAN ADULT EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, MADR

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ADULT EDUCATION REVIEW

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF

The South Indian Adult Education Association, Madras.

(All Correspondence should be addressed to the Organising Secretary.)

Vol. V | JANUARY, 1954 | No 3

EDITORIAL

The Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference, Tirupathi.

The Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference was held at Tirupathi on the 9th and 10th of January 1954. Professor N. G. Ranga, M.P., the well-known Andhra leader, presided. He paid a glowing tribute to Sri G. Harisarvottama Rau for the services rendered by him in the cause of the country, more especially in the field of Adult Education and Library endeavour for a period as long as the life of such individuals as were assembled at the Conference. He laid great emphasis on the need for Adult Education to fit the country to carry out the objectives of the Secular Republican Welfare Democracy that India had achieved by great sacrifices made by the nation. It was natural that as one who had intensive experience of the present parties of India and leading one of such parties he should dwell on this topic at some great length. In his case Adult Education was his natural love and politics was forced on him by circumstances. Though it might not be said that he regretted his being in politics, yet in his speech a certain amount of yearning for his natural love could not be avoided. We feel that it is a great handicap for the country that men like Sri Professor Ranga should be best to the field of Education, really a fundamental neccessity for the country at this stage, because of their politics. We know he is still very active in certain fields like Cottage Industries, more especially, the problems of the Hand-loom Weavers, and his studies of younger days stand him in good stead even to-day but all such activities have unfortunately become secondary to politics. We shall only hope that men of Professor Ranga's type will at least energise the Adult Education movement by giving it importance in their own persons and in their political life the imperative place it deserves. Sri K. S Ramaswami Sastriar who opened the Conference was . in his usual form.

As a retired Judicial Officer of eminence his appeal to the country on behalf of Adult Education in the name of the fundamental programmes enunciated in the constitution was of the high order always associated with him. Sri C. Anna Rau, the Chairman of the Reception Committee, was, as expected, one of the most genial hosts that the South Indian Adult Education Association has had at its Conferences. With Sri Venkateswara guiding him in his simple life of devotion he gave the Delegates welcome of love and kindliness. Sri G. Harisarvottama Rau was absent at the Conference. He was away in Delhi on the business of the National Commission but he had sent a long message of welcome to the Delegates. His review of the position of Adult Education in South India was there in unmistakable terms. We can only draw attention of the Governments in the South to the need there is for much better expansion of their effort in the field of Adult Education with non-officials fully taken into confidence and all the Departments of Government set in co-ordinated motion to help the illiterate masses to achieve literacy and education cent percent within a measurable distance of time. We are glad that the Conference at Tirupathi was well attended by delegates from all the States of South India and the South Indian Adult Education Association is cherished as the joint endeavour of all earnest souls of the South.

Await Early Release:

"WOES OF AN ILLITERATE"

[படியாதவர் படும்பாடு]

All-India Tour to Study Adult Education at Work.

(SRI G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAU.)

When I had to preside over the 9th Indian Adult Education Conference at Nagpur in 1952, I addressed all Governments in India for information on several matters connected with Adult Education. Most of them kindly supplied me with all information that they could give me. I used the material and drafted my speech. All the time I was writing I felt that many matters were not clear to me and I was doing some injustice to the subject, though I had occasionally looked into the working of Adult Education in some of the States. So I thought that it was my duty to study Adult Education at work in all the States of India as best as possible. My time is limited because of the heavy local work that I do and my resources are equally limited. Therefore my projected tour of the Indian States could not be taken up in a continuous manner or compressed into a short space of time. Still I have been doing my best. I have taken notes as I have gone about. I am recording these notes for what they are worth.

THE MYSORE STATE.

11-4-1953 :—By 7 o'clock in the morning on the 11th of April 1953 I was in the Bangalore Station to start my tour in the Mysore State. The City District Organiser Sri B. V. Varadachari was good-enough to be at the station with his van. The Mysore Social Education Council had kindly arranged that I should visit the Bangalore Division on the 11th and the 12th. Therefore I surrendered the railway ticket that I had bought up to Mysore and reached the Divisional Office of the Social Education Council in Bangalore. I met Sri K. S. Muniswami, the Divisional Officer at the place and had talks with him.

The Mysore State have propaganda vans at one per three Districts of 13 H.P. costing about 12,000 to 16.000 rupees. These are equipped with generators, projectors and 16 m.m. films. They are both sound and silent. The staff consists of an operator, driver, and cleaner. They had employed a commentator for some time whom they dispensed with later. The operator does the duty now. He is known as Technical Adviser. He is S. S. L. C. passed and a product of an occupational institute. He is started on Rs. 50 p.m. He is paid daily allowance of Rs. 2-8-0 and dearness allowance of Rs. 23 per mensem. The van works for 15 days in a month. It traverses mud roads and to places where Adult Education centres are situated. It has no public address system. Short talks are however given. They look into 2 to 3 centres a day. Generally the Divisional Officer accompanies the van. The audiences are generally between 1,000 and 2,000. On special occasions like Jataras, it may be even 5,000. Films are borrowed from the American Information Service and other sources. The Social Education Council of Mysore has itself made four films. Their Education Department films are also used. The Health Department has a van. It works in its own manner. Officers of other departments also co-operate. Generally at the show 5 or 6 gramaphone plates and six films are the maximum. Entertainment films come first and last instruction films coming in the middle. The van visits three taluks in the three districts allotted to it at 5 days per taluk, covering about 1,000 miles. Every taluk is visited only once a year.

The Social Education Council's work is treated under 10 sections. (1) Literacy Centres, (2) Libraries, (3) Adult Education Centres, (4) Village Service Centres, (5) Janata Training Centres, (6) Folk Art Centres, (7) Vidyapeetahs, (8) Mobile Units, (9) Students Village Service Camps, (10) Propaganda and Publication.

Literacy Centres :—Every taluk has about 22 to 25 of these. Six months of literacy and three months of follow up work are undertaken. Census is taken in the place. It forms the basis for admission. 20 to 25 form a class for literacy. The payment to the teacher is made by a system of bonus. He has to work for 8 hours and complete a literacy chart and a literacy Primer in 2½ months time. A test is then held. He is given an advance of 12 rupees at that stage, and Rs. 3 and Rs. 8 for lighting. If he completes the first Reader in another two months and half, a test is held and a bonus

at the rate of Rs. 3 for every illiterate man made literate and Rs. 4 for every illiterate woman made literate is declared. The class is supplied with follow up book lets about 100 of which are now published. Each new literate has to read atleast 8 of these in 3 months time. For those 3 months, the teacher gets Rs. 10. Every taluk has a Supervisor and he can start only 25 classes per year. At one time it was 40. But as his duties have increased and finances were limited reduction has taken place. Because the Supervisor has to cover one whole taluk with this limited provision, no attempt can possibly be made for total or widespread literacy in any one place. He is enjoined however to concentrate in one firka in one year and make 500 people literate. Equipment like lantern, black-board, and books is supplied by the Social Education Council. The teacher is generally an Elementary School master. His training lasts only for two days.

2. *Libraries*:—The Social Education Council has one Central Library per district. By this year all districts would have had such central libraries with about 2,000 books. Village libraries are members of such Central Libraries paying Rs. 2 per year. They are supplied 25 books at a time out of an indent of 50 in a library box. The books may be kept for two months. Besides these Circulating Libraries there are pucca Village Libraries, 270 of them in Bangalore district alone. These Village Libraries have to collect Rs. 30 to start. The Council gives a grant of Rs. 70. A committee is appointed. In the first year, books and bureaus are supplied by the Council. From the second year an equal contribution is required to be made according to a budget. Two rupees per month is paid to the Librarian who has a two-day training.

Adult Education Centres:—These form part really of the Literacy Centres. Matter is read to the new literates. *Belaku* a Journal conducted by the Social Education Council is supplied to these institutions. Even when the literacy section is closed, these Adult Centres continue. Free service is expected for this purpose As literacy centres do not last very long these Adult Education Centres have no permanence.

4. *Alround Adult Education Centres*:—Adult Education Centres of this type are conducted only in the Mandya District. A full time worker is in charge. He is of the grade of a Supervisor. He is paid Rs. 35 plus Rs. 15. He is expected to carry on at least five Literacy Classes in the year, working at different times in the day. One holiday in the week is granted. On that day he is expected to carry on cultural programmes (the equipment is not supplied, he is to get the same from the local people). People from the Rural Development Department and Harijan Improvement Department are on the District Co-ordination Committee. The District Organising Secretary of Adult Education is also a member.

Community Centres:—The Supervisors are expected to organise two Community Centres in every taluk, and work at these centres for one year. There might have been literacy effort earlier in those places or it may still be going on. At the Community Centres, all necessary knowledge for the adult should be imparted with the co-operation of other departmental officers. The adults should also be required to take a share in the compulsory labour programme on Mondays, repairing roads and the like. The centres are expected to attend to the development of folk arts and carry on discussion groups, All this has to be done once a week.

About 4,000 Literacy Centres have been so far conducted within the last 10 years and about 3 lakhs have been made literate. 2,116 libraries have been started, 30 lakhs of rupees have been spent on Social Education. These are the figures for the whole State.

11-4-1953:—On 11-4-53 at about 4 p.m., I visited, with the Social Education friends, the Women's Centre in Sriramapuram, 10 out of a total strength of 16 were present. They had learnt to recognise 32 letters of the alphabet in 10 days. These are city dwellers.

At 5 p.m. the Indian Institute of Culture invited us to tea. This Centre was started by Sri B. P. Wadia. The Secretary is Mr. Doraswami. Sri Oplizer of the Service Civil International was also there. He spoke of the splendid work done by that institution from 1919 onwards. It was really an interesting survey of unostentatious service rendered in very inaccessible places.

12-4-1953;—As the employees of the Social Education Council were very busy with their own programme till the previous day, we could start out only at 1 p.m. on this day. There is a place called Kengery

within 10 miles of Bangalore. I got into the office of the Supervisor there and had a talk with him. He confirmed the information I had, that the literary course lasts for 2½ plus 3 months after which, library service is rendered. I questioned him as to whether he could give me the number of those who had become literate under his very direction and who were making use of the library service. He could not give me the number. No attempt has been made to keep account in this matter. I suggested that when they began library service in a place they should first list such as had been made literate by them. They should keep a list in the library and also keep an issue register specially for people on that list. He was pleased with the suggestion and promised to carry it out.

SOCIAL EDUCATION AND HARIJANS.

On enquiry I found that, in general, the literacy classes were held in temples and that Harijans were not permitted to be there. I was informed that some part of the literacy work was carried on in Harijan areas. I had a proof that night when we visited the centre in Ramanagara. The literacy part of it had closed. Only 20 had an opportunity to learn reading. They were doing the follow up work. We had a film show also at the time of our visit.

From Kengery we proceeded to another place Bididi. At that place a number of students and others had joined in a Friends Union and were conducting a library under the auspices of the Mysore Social Service Council. Literacy classes had been held. I found that no attempt had been made to establish contacts between the library and those who had become literate in the literacy classes. The library had no list of daily visitors or a catalogue. Books were being issued once a week. Not more than one or two books had been issued per day. There is a Panchayat Library also in this place. There was no co-operation between that and this library. The Education Department had inspected this library and a grant of Rs. 50 had also been made.

Then we proceeded to Ramnagar hitherto known as Closepet. The ladies of the place were running a library on behalf of the Council. Here also, there was no list of daily visitors or a catalogue. 47 books had been issued to readers per month during the last 3 months. The number of visitors per day was put at 30. No literacy classes were held at the Centre.

CO-OPERATIVE FARMING AND SOCIAL EDUCATION.

From Ramnagar, we reached the Co-operative Farm carried on at Kumbhapuram. The area at the disposal of the society is about 500 acres. When they started work 5 members began collective farming. Some of them proved idlers. Therefore, collective farming had been given up. Each one of the members had been given some land for cultivating by himself. The man who keeps accounts had 10 acres to his share. Others had been given 5 to 7 acres. The membership had been increased by an addition of 10 to 15 others. These have neither bullocks nor other equipment. Out of the whole lot only two are literates. The Social Education Council tried for some time to impart literacy and also began some little library service. But they gave it up after a time. Therefore to-day the Co-operative Inspector is the Mabap of the farm. This is a sorry tale. It may possibly be useful to enforce literacy by telling an illiterate member that joins the society that if he does not become literate in a year, he would lose membership.

FOLLOW UP CLASS IN HARIJAN QUARTERS, RAMANAGAR

The teacher here was a Municipal Councillor. After five months of literacy work, 20 library book-lets were issued to this centre for follow up work. The teacher himself had not read these books so far. He had not distributed the books. The reason he gave was that the last reader which should have been finished in 2½ months was yet under study. There is no attendance for the follow up class. With Rs. 10 paid for 3 months work, including expenses therein of lighting, the teacher may not be expected to have much interest in the work.

Film Show :—There was film show at the Centre with the generator, projector, microphone etc., that formed part of our van. It did not appear that the arrangements were, in any way, defective or insufficient. 4 films were shown, three of them prepared by the Council : (1) "Our Mysore"; (2) "Era-Eri", (Adult Education Film); (3) "Village Arts". The last was taken by the Indian Government with the assistance of the Council. Kanarese songs were really overwhelmed in the Hindi commentary. If the sound should be stopped and a running commentary given

the songs could not re-produced. Our van carried 31 records and 25 to 30 films.

13-4-1953 :—Early by the 7-55 Mail I started off to Mysore. The Local Organiser Sri Satyanarayana was ready at the Station at 12-00 noon. There was an *audio visual* Seminar being conducted in the Exhibition Hall. I was lodged in the Gayathri Bhavan very near. At 3 p.m. I visited the Seminar. Three foreign technical experts were guiding the Seminar: (1) Mr. McLauren (Canada-Scotch); (2) Mr. Ardizony (English Jew); (3) Dr. Miss Rutherford (probably English). Our Raghava Reddy was there. There was another Telugu man Mr. A. N. V. Sarma. Learners including these were 39 in number. Out of these, there were one or two who had already received training once. Mr. Ardizony taught silk screen printing process. Silk cloth was stretched on the top of a frame box. Paper pushed underneeth the silk. The frame was closed. With a wooden brush, colour was applied to the silk screen. Such parts as did not require the colouring were painted with glue. This process does not give fine work. But of ordinary posters 300 to 400 copies or even a 1,000 could be taken. The smaller the frame the better. Dr. Rutherford was exhibiting a new process of illustrating stories by cut-pieces of Khaddar mounted with coloured pictures on paper. She had such pictures in plenty. She would put them on other pieces of Khaddar hung on the black-board, appropriately for the story. There was no attaching material used—neither gum nor pins. It appears as though some dexterity of display has to be acquired. I saw our Raghava Reddy etching very minute pictures on a 35 m.m. film strip. At that Seminar they were teaching photography also. But the gentleman in charge was absent when I visited. They were also teaching the art of writing follow up literature for new literates. Dr. V. Hussain and Mr. Bose were in charge. Dr. Hussain asked me to address the trainees and I did it with pleasure.

KETHAMANA HALLI

We proceeded to a place named Kethamana Halli. This is the last village included in the Mysore Municipality. Two literacy classes had recently been held there. There was also a library opened. It was being developed as a Community Centre. When we were there Lathi Play and Wrestling were exhibited. The Mysore Social Education Council exhibited films. One of them was about compost manure. I addressed the gathering at the request of the Executive Officer Sri Timmai Gowda.

K. SHETTY HALLY

After the night meal, we visited K. Shetty Hally in the Mandya district. It was an Audi-Karnataka Centre. By the time we were there, the literacy class was over. Bhajana was going on. Harathi was offered to a Rama Panchayathana picture. Away at a distance, the local people were enacting a Drama 'Ramacharita' with curtains, electric lights and the like p-to-u date paraphernalia. It was a good show. Sri Timmai Gowda presided. I addressed the audience a few words on Ramayana. We went back 11 miles to Mysore for the night. The Centre that we visited was an alround Adult Education Centre.

14-4-1953 :—Early in the morning at 7-55 we left for Nanjangod to visit the Vidyapitha The trainees there were 20 on the rolls. At our visit there were 14 present. The others had gone to their villages on leave. All the inmates are compulsorily required to spin. Agriculture, gardening and building operations also have to be carried on by them in groups. Mat weaving, cloth weaving, tailoring, and dyeing are optionals. They have a syllabus for general knowledge subjects also. The Principal works at it. Others also visit and deal with the subjects in the syllabus. With me had come the Kanarese Pandit Sri Raghavachari. He taught the trainees 'Ranna's Gada Yuddha'. Another friend Yamunacharya who was also with us taught Social Service subjects. On Mondays the trainees went out to Gikkanna Halli and carried out sanitary work in the village. The Vidyapitha conducts in that place an Elementary School also. The trainees of the Pitha at two a day go there and help in the conduct of the school. There were 32 in this Vidya Pitha at one time but 12 have been transferred to the Vidya Pitha established at Hassan. The Nanjangod Vidya Pitha was not able to get sufficient water for cultivation purposes. They were trying to improve the supply. Every six months when a batch of trainees leaves, they celebrate the occasion in an appropriate manner. The Alumni of the Institution are invited and contacts estab-

Adult Education is best insurance against totalitarianism

Professor Ranga's Warning to the Enemies of Democracy

The Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference Proceedings.

"The Adult Education Movement has assumed special importance and urgency in the whole of the democratic world since the people in all the countries are obliged to think, comprehend and decide for themselves why and how they are to safeguard their civic liberties and fundamental human rights and achieve Social Justice and thus face the challenge of the dictators and the votaries of dictatorship to impose their will on them all," declared Professor N. G. Ranga, Member, Council of States, India, addressing as President the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference.

Continuing Professor Ranga said: "If the masses are to be helped to withstand the hyprotism of totalitarian propaganda and to overcome their own intellectual lethargy and proneness to leave complicated problems of administration to the tender mercies of the enemies of democracy, they must be insured against socially erosive and disruptive influences. The best insurance can only be Adult Education as without it, the cause of world democracy and indeed the future of the masses will be in imminent danger:"

The Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference was held on Saturday, 9th January 1954, in Sri Venkateswara High School, Tirupati. At 10 a.m., after prayer, Sri N. Yaganti, District Collector, Chittoor, hoisted the National Flag. He said the flag was a symbol of the nation's struggles, aspirations and objectives whereof the Adult Education effort was probably the most basic and constructive.

Sri T. R. Deenadayal, District Educational Officer, Chittoor, declared the Adult Education Exhibition open. He said: Such an exhibition, although apparently modest and unimpressive, was an indication of the potentiality and scope of the Social Education Movement; it also suggested the need for research in various directions and for various purposes.

The general session of the conference commenced at 2 p.m. with prayer.

SRI C. ANNA RAO'S WELCOME SPEECH.

As Chairman of the Reception Committee, Sri C. Anna Rao, B.A., Executive Officer, T. T. Devasthanams, welcomed the Delegates and Visitors. He said:

Mr. President and friends,

It is my privilege to extend on behalf of the Reception Committee and the organisers of the conference, a hearty welcome to the Delegates and other guests who have assembled here in response to our invitation. I should also request at the outset that we should be excused for the inconvenience casued by the earlier postponement of this conference which was

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lished. Further, this Vidya Pitha maintains regular correspondence with those who have gone out of it. I was shown letters written by old students telling the Vidya Pitha of activities they had initiated in their villages. The Vidya Pitha gives admission not only to Ryots but also to youth in the villages who have had High School education. In the set I saw most of the trainees were High School educated. There were only one or two who did not know English I put a number of questions to the trainees. They assured me that be cause they were themselves villagers, service was in their blood and they would not spare any trouble to better the conditions in their villages. I spoke a few words to them on the value to contented lives and explained to them the meaning of co-operative existence, Swadeshi and the like. That evening I visited once again the Seminar on Audo-Visual Aids. I had conversation with Dr. Hussain and members belonging to the section relating to the preparation of literature for new literates. I acquiated them with the details of work that we would be doing at Ernakulam.

originally scheduled to be held at the end of September 1953. The partition of the composite State of Madras, the inauguration of the Andhra State and the consequent preoccupations of most of the leading personalities in that connection led to the unavoidable postponement of this session. But, now, we have met in a settled atmosphere and we hope to turn out good and useful work for the progress of Adult Education in the South.

It gives us great pleasure to have in our midst such an eminent gentleman as Dewan Bahadur Sri K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, Hon. Adult Education Officer to the Government of Madras to inaugurate the conference. After a distinguished academic and professional career he is devoting all his spare time and energies to public service. His tastes and attainments are varied and of a high order. He has been taking keen interest in all cultural activities and it would be no exaggeration to apply to him the famous tribute which Dr. Johnson paid to Goldsmith, "He touched nothing that he did not adorn." I am confident that his visit to this place for the conference would give him added pleasure for the opportunity it affords him to visit this holy pilgrim centre.

We are also fortunate in having secured the services of Sri N. G. Ranga to preside over this conference. Sri Ranga does not need an introduction to South Indian audience. His passionate idealism which made him sacrifice a brilliant professional career for the sake of public service should be a source of inspiration to the young men of our country Sri Ranga started life as a professor and hence education, specially of the masses has been an abiding love with him and we hope to benefit greatly by his interest, experience and guidance. As one of the prominent leaders in the Andhra State, his support for our cause would be invaluable.

It is with equally great pleasure that I welcome Mrs. T. N. Ramamurthi, former Principal o' Queen Mary's College, Madras, who is to preside over the women's section of the conference. It is now universally recognised that the problem of Adult Education should be tackled more from the domestic side than from the public platform. It is here that the educated women of the State have to play such a large part in promoting literacy. Mrs. Ramamurthi who has studied all the problems of education in various aspects would be of great help to us not merely by appealing to, and guiding the educated women of the State but also in harnessing their energies and services to a noble task.

It is my privilege to welcome in our midst Sri Yaganti, the Collector of Chittoor, who has hoisted the National Flag. His presence here is doubly welcome not merely on account of the personal interest which he takes in this problem but also in his official capacity. Any amount of non-official work, however enthusiastic and well-meant it may be, may not be enough in such fields unless it is backed up and supplemented by Governmental authority. The Collector's presence here lends an official sanction to our proceedings and indicates the interest and willingness of the authority he represents.

COMMON PROBLEM.

This conference even though it is the 9th of its kind is unique in one sense; it is first to be held in this new State and having started under such favourable auspices I hope this movement would develop from strength to strength and successfully wipe out illiteracy from our midst. It is also gratifying to note that in spite of the political division, all thinking and educated men have recognised that illiteracy is a common problem for both the States, and hence we have here delegates from all parts of the two States, who have devoted themselves to the study of this important problem.

It is usual on such occasions to discuss and emphasize the historic and cultural importance of the locality where the conference is held. But on this occasion it will be superfluous for me to dilate on this aspect because this sacred town is well known all over the country. Its historic importance, its scenic beauty, the devotion inspired by the Lord in the minds of the millions of His worshippers and the sacred songs inspired by the diety which are sung everywhere have made this town most famous in India as a pilgrim centre. The presiding deity of this place draws His votaries from all corners of the country and the devotees who have drunk deep of his grace come to him again and again for Blessnigs and Spiritual solace. The Tirumalai Tirupati Devasthanam having as its first aim the glorification of the Lord and the proper maintenance and manage-

ment of His temples and properties has been doing in its own way some kind of social service by founding schools and colleges, running an Orphanage and maintaining a Poor home and a Leper Colony. With so many educational institutions under its charge it is not out of place for the Devasthanam to associate itself with this conference and in my personal capacity and as a representative of the Devasthanam, I express my gratitude to the organisers for having given me a chance for participating in this function. I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking all my colleagues on the Reception Committee for their unstinted and enthusiastic co-operation in working out the organisational details of this conference.

It may not be out of place to mention here that in our own humble way we have done our part in this field. An Adult Education Committee has been in existence in this town for the past 5 years. The Commissioner of the Municipality has been till now its Secretary but the work has since been entrusted to Sri V. S. Venkatanarayana, M.A., B.El., Headmaster of the Municipal High School, Tirupati. Apart from organising the Adult Education Week Celebrations annually, the Committee has been actively helping in the running of some night schools by other agencies. One such agency is the Social Service League of the Sri Venkateswara College, Tirupati, which has been running two night schools: one located in the Sri Venkateswara High School and another near the Yanadi Colony. It is hoped that these schools would become permanent features and help to utilise the energies and enthusiasm of the hundreds of students in the town.

OBJECTIVE OF ADULT EDUCATION.

It is not necessary for me to say anything about the problem of Adult Education itself; because, it will be the theme of our discussion for the next two days and so many experts will bring to bear all their knowledge and experience on the methods of solving the problem of illiteracy. The urgency for eradicating illiteracy has not been felt more at any other time before, than now. After the attainment of Independence and the broad-basing of our constitution on Adult franchise our statesmen have recognised that for the successful routine of democracy all the people who form the electorate must be educated. There are two aspects of this problem which have been emphasized by educationists and politicians alike. One is, that Adult Education should not be confined merely to the promotion of literacy. It is urgently necessary for us not merely to teach the illiterate to read and write but also to bring him in touch with the minimum of political, scientific and civic knowledge. It is not enough to arouse in him a desire to know but we must be in a position to satisfy that thirst of knowledge in the shortest possible time. It is not enough to give this invaluable tool to his hands but he must be given scope for practising himself in its use and herein comes the task of supplying the new literates with suitable follow up literature covering all aspects of life.

The second aspect of this problem which has also been repeatedly emphasized is its complexity. Illiteracy in our country is like a hydra-headed monster. If one head is cut off, two grow in its place. On account of our inability due to financial reasons to provide compulsory free elementary education to all children of school going age the illiterate population is always on the increase and at times it arouses in the minds of social workers a sense of frustration. I hope that instead of creating a feeling of defeatism the complexity of the problem would make us put forth our best efforts to eradicate it.

We are meeting under the shade of the Seven Sacred Hills and I am sure that the blessings of the Lord would be vouchsafed to us to guide us properly in our deliberations. We hope to make your stay here as pleasant as possible and it is my sincere wish that when all of you disperse and go back to your own towns, you will carry with you not merely happy memories of your enjoyable stay here but also the blessings of Lord Venkateswara!

JAI HIND.

SRI S. AIRAVATHAM'S SPEECH

Sri S. Airavatham, Publicity Secretary, South Indian Adult Education Association, welcoming the delegates and visitors on behalf of the Association, said:

Friends,—Circumstances have conspired, so to say, to drag me out of my seclusion and silence, and to make me prominent and articulate on this occasion. Sri

G. Harisarvothama Rau who is popularly known and acclaimed as *Guruji* by the Adult Educationists of South India was to have been here on this occasion to accord to you all, ladies and Gentlemen, Delegates and Visitors, a very cordial welcome to this conference, on behalf of the South Indian Adult Education Association; but equally important duty has kept him away at Delhi. He has been good enough to send us a message. I cannot do better than read out the same:

SRI G. HARISARVOTHAMA RAU'S MESSAGE.

To friends gathered at the South Indian Adult Education Conference 1954.

"I regret I am now far away from Andhra and will be further away in Delhi between the 7th and 14th instants and shall not be able to return in time for our conference. I have not been able to draft even this letter earlier. Still I take my chance of sending the conference my apologies for being absent and communicating to friends that have assembled my own feeling in relation to the present state of Social Education in the South. Travancore-Cochin is ahead of all States in the South with its high percentage of literacy and its intensive attempt to work up community centres of a very full type. Mysore is also in the vanguard with its great output of Adult Literature and with its aim of extending Vidyapith type of endeavour to leaven the countryside with good rural leadership. We in Andhra, Hyderabad and Madras are, with all our intellectualism and presentation of idealistic ideas, lag behind. To my mind there are clear reasons for our backwardness. We have allowed the overworked Education Department to shoulder responsibility for every details of Social Education. We must have at least Social Education Boards of the type of Social Education Board of Travancore-Cochin if we cannot have State Social Education Councils like Mysore or Bombay. We have failed to provide Adult Education Centres with equipments to carry on Social and Cultural Activities like Kirtan or Bhajans, Drama, sports and games, Ballad Singing, Shadow or Puppet show and the like. It was only last March that combined Madras bought 100 sets of certain materials Andhra getting about 30 sets. This effort of supplying such material should be intensified both through Governmental and local sources. We have failed to work up intensified areas—blocks of villages within a radius of a few miles with a centre which radiates light and affords common amenities for Education work—Extension points as the Community Project language puts it Co-ordination between the several departments of Government in regard to the Social Education endeavour should be fully secured. I am sure the conference will consider all these questions. With this much of suggestion I desire to convey my felicitations to all that take part in our conference and request them to pardon my absence, especially Professor Ranga, the President of the Conference whose ability to guide and counsel the Conference guarantees the success of the Conference and Sri Anna Rau, the Chairman of the Reception Committee whose personal love for me is unbounded and my friends of the South Indian Adult Education Association who have ever stood by me in my failures.

I wish the conference all success."

I cannot improve upon, nor need I add to what Sri G. Harisarvothama Rau has said about Professor Ranga, the President designate, and Sri Anna Rau, the Chairman of the Reception Committee. We the members of the South Indian Adult Education Association cannot be too grateful to Sri Ranga for having agreed to preside over this conference notwithstanding the fact that even ordinarily he is a very busy person and now he is extraordinarily busy and to Sri Anna Rau, who as Chairman of the Reception Committee has undertaken the responsibility for the Conference arrangements.

We are meeting in one of the most important pilgrim centres of India. For hundreds of years the Lord of Thirumalai hills has given solace to thousands and thousands of afflicted persons. Our prayer is we may prove ourselves worthy of the Lord's grace.

TRIBUTE TO ANDHRA LEADERS

We are grateful to the Andhra State Government for the sympathy they have evinced for the Adult Education cause. The Collector and the D. E. O. have given us their co operation, the former by hoisting the National flag and the latter by opening our Exhibition. The cause owes much to Andhra leaders. Sri G. Harisarvothama Rau is one of the most respected of Andhra leaders, and his place today is at the very top in the world of Adult Education. He presided recently over the all India Adult Education Conference. He was honoured by being elected the Director of the National Seminar on Adult Education held near Patna.

We are happy the conference is fairly representative. It would be still more representative if the Government of Madras had given us their co-operation. This conference was postponed twice. We did not want a third postponement. A whole year, the year 1953, had elapsed without our holding a conference How can we allow another half year to elapse without our holding a conference? And yet the Government of Madras wanted us to hold the conference in the later half of 1954. We have presented our case to them; we told them that the separation and creation of Andhra State has created a situation for us, the South Indian Adult Education Association, and we have to deal with various organisational matters; we further pointed out that the question of the State or Government giving support to the Adult Education cause has nothing to do with elections to District Boards, that existing District Boards are as good as District Boards that would come into existence after the elections, and that in any case we are holding the conference on 9th and 10th June '54. Our logic has not appealed to the Government. There the matter stands.

I have one word to say about the objective of the Social Education movement. A meaningless and un-necessary distinction is being made between Adult Literacy and Adult Education. As a matter of fact, Adult Education is an all embracing, dynamic movement of which Adult Literacy is the first and foremost and most indispensable item. The illiterate Adult plays the greatest part in Adult Education. Unless he becomes liter te he cannot play his part well. Adult Education is therefore self education. The volume of adult illiteracy was no doubt staggering but it could be wiped if soul stirring leadership like that of Mahatma Gandhi was forthcoming. The adult had a cultivated mind, and he had just to learn the symbol of his own mother tongue with the words and thought structure of which he was already quite well acquainted.

SRI K. S. RAMASWAMI SASTRIAR INAUGURATES CONFERENCE

Sri K. S. Ramaswami Sastri, Honorary Adult Education Organiser to the Government of Madras, inaugurating the conference, said:

The inauguration of an Adult Education Conference in Modern India and that in holy Tirupati is, in my view, one of the high lights of nation building activity in India. Lord Venkateswara is believed by all Hindus as the supreme boon-giver of this age and the great basic boon which we must beg of him is the boon of quick complete literacy. Without it all our national endeavours will be in vain and with it all of them will be a complete and resounding success.

The first act of gratitude on our part must be to the Father of the Nation—Mahatma Gandhi who was the architect of our freedom and who won it for us by the technique which is old in India but new in the world at large *viz.* the method of Satya and Ahimsa instead of by the age-long method of bloody revolution and violence. We are living under under a new constitution which longest and greatest constitution in the world and we are meeting to-day in the m nth in which the constitution came into force. It requires an act of faith and dedication if we are to be worthy of it. Some lament that it has by article 326 bestowed adult suffrage too early; but I do not agree with them. Even without universal literacy we have conducted our first national general elections with great self restraint and wisdom. But I think that the bestowal of adult suffrage a little prematurely is a call and a challenge to us. We must before the next elections come round, go beyond the present silly election technique of choosing as between rival candidates by such ridiculous symbols as bulls and horses and umbrellas and flowers.

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DIRECTIVE PRINCIPLES

Let us bear in mind two provisions contained in part 4 of the constitution which deals with the directive principles of state policy. Article 45 of the constitution says that the State shall endeavour to provide within ten years for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of 14 years. Equally important is article 47 which says that the State shall endeavour to provide within ten years for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age 14 years. Equally important is article 47 which says that the State shall make effective provision for securing the right to work, to education and to social security. Adult education is thus not an eleemosynary act of grace but a vested right of every adult man and woman. So long as 200 years ago the great Kalidasa said in his Raghuvamsa that the king was the real father of his people because he provided universal education, universal employment and universal protection of rights These are the primary functions and duties and responsibilities of civilised Governments and are more important and vital than the executive and legislative and judicial functions because these relate to the instrument of democracy whereas those and extensive relate to the ideals of democracy.

I concede that elementary education is more important than adult education because it deals with the present and future generation which is passing away. But the latter cannot be neglected without risk to the former because illiterate parents are sure to depress the children's desire for literacy and learning and that is the reason why literate children soon lapse into illiteracy both on the juvenile front and on the adult front though the battle has necessarily to be more intensive on the juvenile front.

It is a matter for congratulation that the modified scheme of elementary education which is the gift to the Madras State by its great and wise Chief Minister Rajaji has been widely approved despite slight opposition due to political pulls here and there. It alone will bring about the effective operation of article 45 of the Constitution. The two-shift system will give adequate education, will double the number of children in the elementary schools, will correlate the home and the school and will give a practical outlook and a craft bias to the children.

It is equally necessary to give a new orientation to adult education. Every adult school must hereafter not merely concentrate on literacy but must become a club and community centre where it will be a pleasure to meet the teacher and the adults and where learning will be a delight and not a drudgery and where the fine arts and games will have a prominent place and will sweeten education. Adult education will hereafter be called Social Adult Education or Fundamental Education.

The South Indian Adult Education Association has been doing propaganda work for nearly 15 years in the realm of Adult Education. It has conducted many conferences. During last 4 years it has celebrated the Adult Education Week on a State-wide scale. It has published literature for the neo-literates. It has conducted Adult Education Seminars at Adyar and at Ernakulam. Even now it is eager to work intensively all over South India to make Adult Education a signal success.

Since 26th January 1950, when the Constitution of India came into force, the Central Government has launched an adult education drive. The Madras State, then including the newly formed Andhra State, aligned itself with the centre in this work. The new Andhra State, over whose birth we all rejoice, will surely take a great part in this national work.

THE FIVE-YEAR NATIONAL PLAN

According to the Five Year National Plan 7½ crores of rupees are provided for social education. According to it the concept of adult education should include the education of adults in health matters, the proper use of leisure and in citizenship. It must include also moral and religious education and the attainment of better standards of skill in the various crafts and the urge for better standards of living. The various Community Projects and the National Extension Service have included it as an all important item of activity. The aim of the National plan is to bring within the ambit of Social Education at least 20 per cent of the men and 10 per cent of the women in the age group 14-40. I am an old man in a great hurry and I pray for the achievement of cent percent literacy in India in 10 years. I know that our percentage is about 15 per cent to 20

per cent but I feel sure that by intensive and extensive effort we can reach ourgoal in 10 years.

Fortunately for us there is a Library Act and a library cess is being levied. The work of adult education will succeed only if there is a library and a reading room in every village to prevent any lapse into illiteracy and to keep them abreast of the times. What we need most urgently is suitable and diverified literature on all modern topics for the new literates.

In this great compaign the universities in India must play an adequate part. The Madras University has already instituted a Diploma in Social Service. A School of Social Work is being run at Madras. The college students also are taking to the work of adult education enthusiastically during their vacations. I once thought that they should be conscripted for such work. But I now find that they themselves are eager to form a National Cultural Militia and I rejoice at that sight.

I wish to offer a few suggestions. The pace of adult education will be quickened if all employers will employ only literate adults. Here the Government and the local bodies must set an example. All employers of labour should start schools to impart literacy to existing employees. The Government must increase the number of teachers trained in adult education methods—Dr. Laubach's methods "India Shall Be Literate" and "Each one Teach One" must never be forgotten.

The West has abolished illiteracy in a short time. What the West has done we can do also. Why should there be illiteracy in India while it has ceased to exist in U. S. A. and in Britain and in the countries in Western Europe and in Russia?

We must employ all the effective modern cultural agencies such as the gramaphone and the the radio and the films to achieve our great purpose. The work of cent per cent literacy must be completed in 10 years. Thereafter adult education will cease to be adult literacy and will continue to be an agency to fit adults for modern life through the imparting of up-to-date modern knowledge in all the crafts and all the professions.

May this conference lead to the realisation of this great dream! May the blessings of Lord Venkateswara rest on our humble and selfless endeavours!

Sri P. S. Guruva Reddy, Chairman, Tirupathi Municipal Council, proposed Professor N. G. Ranga, M. P. to be President of the Conference, and Sri A Krishnamorti Rao, Treasurer of Mysore Adult Education Council, seconded the proposal. Both the proposer and seconder recalled the services rendered and the sacrifices made by Professor Ranga in the cause of education and the cause of liberation of the nation from foreign rule, and said that a better choice could not have been made.

Professor Ranga, then took the presidential chair and thanked the proposer and seconder and the others concerned for having chosen him President and given him a chance to serve the cause.

MESSAGES READ

Sri M. Morram Reddy, B A. B.Ed., Headmaster, S. V. High School, Tiripati, and Joint Secretary of the Reception Committee, then read out the Messages received by the Reception Committee.

The following is the text of the message dated New Delhi, 14th September 1953, received from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President of India:

Dear Shri Venkatanarayana, thank you for your letter of the 12th instant. I am glad to know that the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference under the auspices of the South Indian Adult Education Association, Madras will be held on the 9th and 10th January 1954 at Tirupathi under the President ship of Professor N. G. Ranga. I send you my best wishes for the success of the Conference.

In the course of a letter dated New Delhi 15th September 1953, the Private Secretary to the Education Minister of India wrote: I am desired to acknowledge your letter dated 12th September 1953 and to say that the Maulana Sahib is of opinion that good work carries its own message and needs no other.

Sri C. M. Tiruvedi, Governor of Andhra State wrote as follows to the Headmaster, Municipal High School, Tirupati.

I am glad to learn that the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference under the auspices of the South Indian Adult Education Association, Madras, will be held on the 9th and 10th January 1954 under the Presidentship of Sri N. G Ranga. I send my very best wishes for the success of the Conference. I hope that its deliberations will result in stimulating, both in quality

and quantity, the Adult Education movement.

Shri Sri Prakasa, Governor of Madras, sent the following message:

It pleases me greatly to send my hearty greetings to the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference. I am happy to note that the South Indian Adult Education Association has been able to organise its ninth Conference. Progressing year by year in its sacred task of eradicating illiteracy Adult Education is the greatest need of our country at the present moment in view of the vast illiterate population we have, and also the freedom we have recently achieved. Every man and woman has to become a fully developed citizen so as to participate intelligently in the nation-building activities of the Government For that purpose education is the primary equipment needed. No Government, however powerful, will be able to liquidate this country-wide illiteracy by themselves. The co-operation of non-official organisations such as the South Indian Adult Education Association is always welcome and necessary. I hope and trust that this Ninth Conference will take us nearer our goal of achieving cent per cent literacy in our country. May God bless your efforts.

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, Governor, Madhya Pradesh, sent the following message: The South Indian Adult Education Association has done excellent work in the past, and I congratulate you upon having secured the presence of Shri N. G Ranga M P., for the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference as its President. This problem of Adult Education is largely a problem that must be dealt with by the citizens of India who have received the blessing of education themselves and who therefore owe a debt not merely of gratitude but of service to the nation which they must liquidate by helping the citizens in the matter of Adult Education in their turn.

Sri C. Subramaniam, Minister for Finance and Education, Madras State, wrote:

Dear Sri Venkatanarayana, thank you for your kind invitation for the Ninth South Indian Adult Education Conference to be held at Tirupathi on the 9th and 10th of January. I am happy to learn that my friend Professor N. G. Ranga is presiding over the conference. I wish the conference all success.

Dr. C P. Ramaswamy Aiyar acknowledged receipt of the invitation and wished the Conference all success.

Sri S. Govindarajulu, Director of Public Instruction, sent a message wishing the Conference every success.

Sri M. Anantasayanam Aiyangar, Deputy Speaker, Parliament of India, wrote: Adult Education is the need of the hour. If college Students are only enthusiastic about this movement, they can easily spare their leisure hours for the spread of Adult Education. They may be assigned particular areas where they can go during their holidays. I am sure that under the Presidentship of Professor Ranga you will be able to devise a proper scheme for extending the benefit of Adult Education to larger and larger sections of our masses in the coming years. I wish the conference every success.

Dr. Amaranatha Jha President, Indian Adult Education Association, Delhi, wrote: I am delighted to know that the South Indian Adult Education Conference is to be held under the distinguished Presidentship of Professor N. G Ranga. I know how valuable is the work that is being done by your (South Indian Adult Education) Association. I have the privilege of knowing some of your members. I have also had the opportunity of visiting one or two centres where I have noticed the enthusiasm and ability with which this important work is being done. I am confident that your conference will be an unqualified success.

Sri N. Ragunatha Aiyar, President, Southern India Journalists Federation, and Assistant Editor. The Hindu wrote: The South Indian Adult Education Association has been engaged in a cause which deserves the support of the enlightened public. I wish your conference all success.

(To be continued in next issue)

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